

DITRIENA, gen. nov.

Sternal cavity formed laterally by the mesosternum and posteriorly by the metasternum. Lateral portions of the mesosternum moderately elongate. Antennal pores in a fossa at the lower anterior angles of the joints. Front of the head rather broad, nearly parallel-sided, not constricted at the insertion of the antennæ, the eyes scarcely oblique. Scutellum small, transversely oval. Epipleural lobe of the elytra considerably arched, so that it covers one-third of the metasternal epipleuron. Antennæ inserted very near the eyes, as in *Cinyra*, the cavity very small and without any distinct carina above it. Basal joint of the posterior tarsi longer than the second joint, but not so long as the second and third together. Thorax evenly convex, slightly transverse, sides nearly parallel, the base with a small central fovea. Elytra subparallel for some distance, and then gradually narrowed to the apex (each armed with three small acute spines), striate-punctate, costate posteriorly.

I think there can be no doubt that this genus should be placed next to *Cinyra*, from which it differs by its more parallel form, shorter tarsi, and in having three spines at the apex of each elytron. The tibiæ are rather stout, and the middle as well as the anterior ones are slightly curved inwards and finely serrate on the inner side.

XXXV.—*The Nomenclature of the Rheas of South America.*

By LORD BRABOURNE, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., and C. CHUBB, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Zoological Department, British Museum.

ON going into this question we find that Linnæus founded his *Struthio americanus* (= *Rhea americana*) on "Nhanduguacu brasiliensibus" of Maregrave, and his name is applicable to the bird known as *Rhea macrorhyncha*, Scater, P. Z. S. 1860, p. 207; consequently *Rhea americana* of authors (nec Linn.) requires a new name, for which we propose

Rhea rothschildi.

Adult male. Crown of head, lower hind-neck, middle of the mantle, lower fore-neck, and sides of the upper breast black; sides of the crown, upper hind-neck, and upper fore-neck

greyish white with black shafts and elongated hair-like tips to the feathers, becoming buff-colour on the sides of the neck; chin and upper throat white; sides of the upper mantle and short wing-feathers lead-grey, with black shaft-lines; the long wing-feathers are disintegrated and composed of colours black, white, grey, and brown; the upper back is dusky black, becoming paler and gradually merging on to the lower back, which is silvery grey with darker shaft-lines like the flanks and thighs; middle of upper breast ash-grey; remainder of under surface pearl-white.

Total length 53 inches; exposed portion of culmen 3·5; tarsus 13·0; middle toe and claw 6·0.

The type, which was collected at Ynglases, Ajó, Buenos Ayres, on the 27th of May, 1909, is in the British Museum.

We have much pleasure in naming this Rhea in honour of the Hon. Walter Rothschild, who has done so much for the advancement of ornithology in various parts of the world.

Since this was drawn up the Hon. Walter Rothschild has called our attention to a paper by himself, "On the former and present Distribution of the so-called Ratitæ," which is being published in the 'Proceedings' of the Fifth International Ornithological Congress held in Berlin, 1910.

In this paper he had anticipated us by pointing out that *Rhea macrorhyncha* of Selater was a synonym of *Struthio americanus* of Linnæus, but had accepted for *Rhea americana* of authors (nec Linnæus) *Rhea nandu* of Lesson.

We had already looked into this, and concluded that *Rhea nandu* was simply a substitute name for the Rheas as a whole, and consequently unacceptable for this species. In support of which we copy Lesson's introduction of his name (Man. d'Orn. ii. p. 208, 1828):—"Ce genre ne renferme qu'une espèce nommée *nandu*, *churi*, *autruche d'Amérique*, et quelquefois par erreur *touyou*. C'est le *rhea nandu*, ou *struthio rhea* de Linné, qui vit sur les bords du détroit de Magellan, où les voyageurs l'ont souvent prise pour une véritable espèce d'autruche."

Moreover, Temminck, in the 40th livraison of the Pl. Col., text to pl. 237 (1823), had already used *Rhea nandua* as a substitute name for *Rhea americana*, and this usage has five years priority over Lesson.

We also find that d'Orbigny, in the Itinerary of his Voyage (ii. p. 67, note, 1834), gave the chief diagnostic character, when he proposed the name of *Rhea pennata* for the species from Patagonia commonly known as *Rhea*

darwini, Gould; and as he has three years priority over Gould, his name must be accepted.

The species, with their type localities, will in future be known as:—

Rhea americana (Linn.), Syst. Nat. i. p. 155, 1758. (Ser-gipe, East Brazil—ex Maregrave.)

Rhea rothschildi, Brabourne and Chubb. (Argentina.)

Rhea pennata, d'Orb. (Patagonia.)

XXXVI.—Two new Species of *Lepus*.

By R. E. DRAKE-BROCKMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.Z.S.

Lepus crispii, sp. n.

This species is remarkable for its diminutive size and general pale coloration. Although the fur of both specimens obtained appears to be bleached, the pale colour and small size render it quite distinct.

In its bleached state the fur of this species differs markedly from the bleached fur found in *L. somalensis*. The fur is pale grey at the base, then pale buff followed by a distinct light brown band, while the terminal part of the hairs is creamy white, rendering the animal almost indistinguishable from the sand in the region where it lives.

The back of the neck is of a pinkish buff, while the whole of the fur on the underparts, with the exception of a narrow longitudinal band of white, is pale buff. The fur on the legs is very similar to that on the back.

The head is of the general body-colour, but it will be seen that where the new fur is appearing the hairs are tipped with black, which soon fades to a dark brown and then rapidly gets bleached.

The chin is white, there is a distinct light-coloured area round the eyes, the whiskers are black tipped with white, and the ears long, scantily covered with hair and edged with a creamy buff, except at the tip of the ear, where it is brown.

I have taken as the type specimen my number 354, a male shot near Obbia, Italian Somaliland, on December 23rd, 1910.

The measurements, in the flesh, of this specimen were as follows:—

	mm.
Head and body	375
Tail	100
Hind foot	93
Ear	100
Weight	1½ lbs.